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# DVD to help all parties

**N**ATIVE title, put simply, is the legal recognition that some Indigenous people have rights and interests to land based on their traditional laws and customs.

But anyone who has sought to have their native title recognised, or has mining or exploration interests in land where native title could be affected, will know that it is a very complex area of Australian law.

The National Native Title Tribunal can help people with an interest in native title identify what process they need to follow to progress towards a native title decision or agreed outcome.

The Tribunal, in its role registering and mediating native title claims, and mediating future act applications, can provide parties with a range of assistance, including geospatial, research, library and administrative services.

In addition, the Tribunal produces a range of brochures, booklets, electronic documents and short films to explain aspects of native title.

Newest amongst these is a 15-minute DVD called *Mining and Native Title*, developed to explain some of the legal requirements and processes involved in relation to exploration and mining on areas where native title exists.

The free DVD adds to the Tribunal's existing documentaries *Native Title Stories: Rights, Recognition, Relationships* (2004) and 15

## Native Title and You



**By National Native Title Tribunal President GRAEME NEATE**

*Years of Native Title* (2008).

Mining and native title gives people with mining and exploration interests an easy-to-follow explanation of the native title processes and helps them navigate through those processes

The DVD focuses on the experiences of people involved in three very different projects around Australia who have reached agreements about native title issues.

The Argyle Diamond Mine Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in Western Australia's Kimberley region, the exploration agreement between Beach Petroleum and the Wangkumarra People in south-west Queensland, and the ILUA facilitating the grant of hundreds of small mining tenements on the traditional lands of the Kanguoulu People in the central Queensland Gemfields.

are highlighted in the DVD.

People share their experiences of native title processes. They explain some of the stumbling blocks that can be encountered, and suggest how to approach negotiations.

The Tribunal appreciates these contributions to the DVD because they show how an understanding of native title has helped people progress negotiations and their work in the resources sector.

Mining companies who have been through the process also know the importance of talking to the relevant Indigenous people about if and how a project can go ahead.

Building relationships helps to develop trust and gives certainty to all negotiating parties.

The new film shows that, after 15 years of the Native Title Act operating, many people and businesses have developed sound legal agreements, built strong relationships and partnerships with local communities, and realised there is a very good business case for a positive and knowledgeable approach to native title.

The Tribunal hopes that this DVD will help people understand the native title processes, rights and responsibilities and will improve the likelihood of more positive negotiations and outcomes.

● **For a copy of the new DVD or for any other Tribunal information products visit [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au) or email [enquiries@nntt.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@nntt.gov.au)**